

## **Dewey Burdock Project Background and Public Hearings**

### **Background:**

The EPA Region 8 Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program is proposing to issue two draft UIC Area Permits to Powertech (USA) Inc. (Powertech) for injection activities related to uranium recovery. One is a UIC Class III Area Permit for injection wells for the In-Situ Recovery (ISR) of uranium in the Inyan Kara Formation. The second is a UIC Class V Area Permit for deep injection wells that would be used to dispose of ISR process waste fluids into the Minnelusa Formation below the Inyan Kara after treatment to meet radioactive waste and hazardous waste standards. The EPA is also proposing an aquifer exemption approval in connection with the draft UIC Class III Area Permit. Specifically, this approval would exempt from protection under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the uranium-bearing portions of the Inyan Kara Group aquifers. Such an exemption must be in place before ISR activities within these aquifers can occur.

### **Public Comment/Hearings:**

- The EPA is seeking comments on the two draft permits, the proposed aquifer exemption, a draft environmental justice analysis, and the EPA proposed approach to compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.
- The public comment period will end on May 19, 2017 at midnight MT to accommodate public hearings.
- There will 4 public hearings. Detailed information about the public hearings will be available in the public notices, on the EPA website and in the email that will be sent out to interested parties on March 6. The schedule for public hearings is:
  - a. April 27 in Valentine, NE
  - b. May 8-9 in Rapid City, SD
  - c. May 10 in Hot Springs, SD
  - d. May 11 in Edgemont, SD
- The EPA will hold public outreach sessions for 1 hour before each public hearing begins. The format of the public outreach sessions will include informational presentations by the EPA with opportunity for the public to ask questions.
- Information on how to provide comments to the EPA will be included in the public notices, on the EPA website and in the email that will be sent out on March 6.